

2006 Great Parks Summit

Greener, Healthier, Economically Vibrant Communities
Presented by Miami-Dade Park & Recreation Department



MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY

2006 Great Parks Summit



CARLOS ALVAREZ
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA



February 17, 2006

Dear Friend:

Welcome to the Great Parks Summit! I am thrilled you could join us for this exciting event.

You are one of the many park and public space leaders, elected officials, county and municipal professionals and community advocates that have come together to share their vision for a sustainable, livable South Florida.

Miami-Dade County has already shown a commitment to parks, open spaces and recreational activities. Now, we have the opportunity to build on decades of progress and create an even greater, healthier community.

I am eager to learn about the new and different ways community organizations, government agencies and private institutions can work together to conserve our open spaces for this and future generations.

As this summit commences, let us begin to create a new parks blueprint for South Florida that rivals not only the state, but the nation, and can guide us through the 21st century and beyond.

Thank you for your participation and best wishes for a fulfilling experience.

Sincerely,

Carlos Alvarez
Mayor



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Carlos Alvarez
Mayor

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Vivian Donnell Rodriguez
Director, Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department

About

Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department

A three-time winner of the National Gold Medal for excellence in park and recreation administration, Miami-Dade Parks serves 25 million visitors and residents per year, who use our parks, attend our events and participate in our programs.

The Department manages more than 12,000 acres, roughly half of which are environmentally sensitive or threatened natural areas requiring protection and conservation. Miami-Dade Parks maintains and programs more than 250 parks, recreation facilities and greenway areas; and it provides park and recreation services to a resident population of more than two million.

Thousands each year enjoy the Department's diverse and engaging programs including eco-tourism, performing arts, after-school and summer camps and activities for seniors.

Miami-Dade Parks is a proven leader in its field and continues to be awarded National Accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Park & Recreation Agencies.

About

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is one of the world's preeminent botanic gardens, with extensive collections of rare tropical plants including palms, cycads, flowering trees and vines. Established in 1938, the 83-acre garden is among the region's most popular visitor attractions and offers a variety of programs in environmental education, conservation and horticulture. An international leader in tropical plant research, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden plays an important part in preserving the biodiversity of the tropical environment.



JOE A. MARTINEZ
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DISTRICT 11

February 17, 2006

Welcome to the Great Parks Summit!

This is a day of inspiration and dialogue about the importance of parks and public space to the success of our community.

This special event initiates the development of Miami-Dade County's Open Space Master Plan, a vision for a seamless network of parks, recreation and conservation open spaces for current and future generations.

The Great Parks Summit is an opportunity for all of us to contribute to a vision for future park development and stewardship, foster a spirit of collaboration and coordination between private and public agencies, and build a coalition of park and public space advocates.

We hope you will seize every opportunity to interact and share with your colleagues and leave this Summit with many ideas for greater partnerships and collaboration to improve the quality of life in our community.

We look forward to meeting you at this very exciting event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe A. Martinez".

Joe A. Martinez
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sally A. Heyman".

Sally A. Heyman
Chairperson
Intergovernmental Recreation and
Cultural Affairs Committee





MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

GEORGE M. BURGESS

COUNTY MANAGER



February 17, 2006

Dear Participant:

Today is a great opportunity for all of us to contribute to an inspired vision for future park development and stewardship. This is a special event that kicks off the development of Miami-Dade County's Open Space Master Plan. It is an opportunity to work together as a community of individuals who care about quality of life issues. Together we can move toward a common goal.

Parks and public space are essential to the health, well-being and quality of life for citizens. They are an integral part of the economic and environmental health of a community. Parks bring people of different backgrounds together. They are public places that celebrate our great diversity and define the character of our neighborhoods.

Welcome to the Great Parks Summit where we will hear national leaders discuss the value of parks to great communities.

Sincerely,

George M. Burgess
County Manager

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Health Foundation of South Florida

*Helping to improve the health status of the residents of
Miami-Dade County.*



South Florida Water
Management District



February 17, 2006

Dear Summit Participants,

Let me first thank you for your interest in and support of the Great Parks Summit.

The Summit, a full-day workshop, will feature nationally- and locally- recognized speakers on park planning, open space and sustainable approaches to urban design. It will be the catalyst for a groundbreaking dialogue among decision-makers about the nature of parks and their place in the community. And it will, most importantly, officially launch our two-year Open Space Master Plan initiative.

The Open Space Master Plan will further articulate our vision for the future of Miami-Dade Parks to create a national model for a seamless system of park, recreation and conservation open spaces for this and future generations. This visionary plan will guide us as we continue to develop a unified and holistic approach to provide an excellent park system for the 21st century. We are already leaders in providing outstanding recreational programs and facilities to a diverse and growing community. The Master Plan will define the framework for the future.

The Department was recently recognized for its past accomplishments as the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies awarded it with national accreditation. Of the thousands of park and recreation agencies nationwide, only 55 have received accreditation having met a series of established criteria for excellence. This rigorous process of self-assessment and peer review evaluates the quality of the programs, procedures and facilities against a standard of best management practices for our field. It is an accomplishment to be highly valued and appreciated as we have been singled out and acknowledged as a national leader in park and recreation management. We have much to be proud of!

Again, thank you for your support of the Great Parks Summit and Miami-Dade Park and Recreation.

Sincerely,

Vivian Donnell Rodriguez
Director, Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department

presenters

Harvey Ruvin

Miami-Dade County Clerk of Courts

Harvey Ruvin has 35 years of public service that includes 20 years as a Miami-Dade County Commissioner. Throughout his career, he has proven to be a viable advocate for the environment.

As a County Commissioner, Mr. Ruvin sponsored ordinances, referenda and projects that protected the environment, including a \$90 million tax levy for the purchase and maintenance of endangered lands, the re-nourishment of Haulover Beach and the restoration and enhancement of Biscayne Bay.

Serving numerous civic organizations and councils, Mr. Ruvin has made an impact on national and international levels. He was a delegate to the United Nations World Congress for a Sustainable Future and a member of President Carter's Council on Energy Efficiency and President Clinton's Sustainable Communities Task Force of the President's Council on Sustainable Development.



Fred I. Kent III

President, Project for Public Spaces

Fred Kent is a leading authority on revitalizing city spaces and one of the foremost thinkers in livability, smart growth and the future of the city.

As founder and president of Project for Public Spaces, he is known as a dynamic speaker and prolific ideas man. Mr. Kent has undertaken consultancy work and given talks in 46 states across the U.S. and 12 countries, including presentations for the Smart Growth Network, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. General

Services Administration, and the American Society of Landscape Architects.

A Columbia University graduate, Mr. Kent studied with Margaret Mead and worked with William H. Whyte on the Street Life Project, assisting in observations and film analysis of corporate plazas, urban streets, parks and other open spaces in New York City. The research resulted in the now classic "The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces," which documented human behavior in the urban environment.



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2006 Great Parks Summit

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2006 Great Parks Summit

February 17, 2006
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Program

8:00-9:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00-10:00 Welcoming Remarks:
Mike Maunder, PhD., Director of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
Vivian Donnell Rodriguez, Director, Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Dept.

Opening Remarks:
George M. Burgess, Miami-Dade County Manager
Honorable Sally Heyman, District 4 Miami-Dade County Commissioner and Chair of Intergovernmental Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee
Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County

Presiding:
Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of Courts, Miami-Dade County

morning

10:00-10:45 Speaker: Fred Kent, President, Project for Public Spaces
Topic: **What If We Built Our Cities Around Places?**

10:45-11:00 Intermission

11:00-11:45 Speaker: Jim Bowen, Vice President, RiverCity Company
Topic: **Building Strong Private-Public Partnerships: The Tennessee Riverpark Project**

afternoon

12:00-1:15 Complimentary lunch will be provided

1:15-2:15 Speaker: Charles Jordan, Chairman of The Conservation Fund
Topic: **A Progressive Park System: Removing Boundaries and Forging Partnerships**

2:15-2:30 Intermission

2:30-3:30 Panel Discussion
Moderator: Harvey Ruvin
Presentation: Audrey Bennett, Director of Planning and Environmental Service Branch, Ontario Greenbelt Project
Discussion Leaders:
Dan Kimball, Everglades National Park Superintendent
Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Principal, Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company, Dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Miami
George Jones, District 5 Bureau Chief, Division of Florida State Parks

Topic: **Toward Sustainability: A Regional Approach**

3:30-4:30 Closing Remarks: Harvey Ruvin

Jim Bowen

Vice President, RiverCity Company



Vice President of the RiverCity Company, Jim Bowen has 34 years of experience in community and urban development.

He has been at the forefront in numerous projects in Chattanooga, Tennessee including the Tennessee Aquarium, Fishing Park and almost 13 miles of riverwalk development. Mr. Bowen was also involved in the restoration of the Walnut Street Bridge – a 115-year old bridge serving as a linear park for pedestrians connecting downtown and the now-thriving Northshore area.

He served as the City representative on the task force that helped develop the Tennessee Riverpark Master Plan – a visionary 25-year plan to guide development along the 20-mile river corridor in Chattanooga. The RiverCity Company has just completed acting as the Master Developer for the \$120m 21st Century Waterfront Plan in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Charles Jordan

Chairman of The Conservation Fund



For nearly 20 years Charles Jordan has been a steward of parks and open spaces. He is currently the Chairman of The Conservation Fund, a nonprofit that has protected more than 4 million acres of our nation's outdoor heritage. Mr. Jordan spent 14 years as the Director of the Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation, retiring in 2003. Prior to that, he was the Director of Parks and Recreation in Austin, Texas and an Assistant Director of Recreation and Special Events in Palm Springs, California.

Mr. Jordan has also held public office, serving as a Portland City Commissioner from 1974-1984. President Reagan appointed him to serve on the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors and President Clinton appointed him to the American Heritage River Program.

Mr. Jordan also serves on the Board of the National Park Service's African-American Experience Fund, the National Park System Advisory Board, and the National Forest Foundation Board.

presenters

Audrey Bennett

Director of Planning and Environmental Service Branch, Ontario, Canada

Audrey Bennett is the Director of the Provincial Planning and Environmental Services Branch of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Province of Ontario, Canada.

A registered professional planner with the Ontario Professional Planning Institute and Canadian Institute of Planners, Ms. Bennett has worked at both the municipal and provincial level on development approvals and policy development over the past 24 years. She also coordinated several environmental protection and land use planning initiatives including a legislative framework to facilitate Brownfield redevelopment.

One of the most significant accomplishments this year is The Greenbelt Protection Act and Greenbelt Plan. Together these resulted in the protection of over 1.8 million acres of countryside from major urbanization. More recent initiatives include a review of the planning system in Ontario to align with growth management objectives and sustainable development.



Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, F.A.I.A., C.N.U.

Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company

Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk is a founding principal of Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company, Town Planners and Architects (DPZ). DPZ is a leader in the national movement called the New Urbanism, which seeks to end suburban sprawl and urban disinvestment. The firm's method of integrating master planning with design codes and regulations is being applied in towns and cities on sites ranging from 10 to 10,000 acres throughout North America as well as in Europe and Asia. For this work, the firm and its principals have received numerous awards.



Plater-Zyberk is also the dean of the University of Miami School of Architecture, where she has taught since 1979. Plater-Zyberk received her undergraduate degree in architecture and urban planning from Princeton and her master's degree in architecture from the Yale School of Architecture. She co-authored the books "Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream," and "The New Civic Art." She is a founder and board member emeritas of the Congress for the New Urbanism.

Dan B. Kimball

Everglades National Park Superintendent

A 20-year veteran of the National Park Service, Dan Kimball is an expert in water and natural resource management and the evaluation of complex environmental issues.

As superintendent of Everglades National Park in Homestead, FL, Mr. Kimball is responsible for preserving and restoring the integrity of the park's resources and ecosystem. He previously served as the Chief of National Park Service

Water Resources Division, playing a major role in successful efforts to settle park water rights issues in the western United States and to protect parks, such as Yellowstone National and Glacier National Parks from the adverse effects of resource extraction activities.

He has received a number of awards, including the Department of the Interior Superior Service Award (1989), the Stephen Tyng Mather Award for resource conservation given by the National Parks Conservation Association (1995), and the Pacific Northwest Regional Director's Award for Professional Excellence in Natural Resources (2002).



George Jones

Bureau Chief of the Florida Park Service, District 5 Southeast Florida

George Jones is a 33 year employee of the state, starting his career as a Park Ranger at Cape Florida State Park on Key Biscayne in 1973.

Prior to his present appointment, he served for four years as Operations Manager in District 4 southwest Florida. The remaining 29 years all have been served in southeast Florida parks.

